

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th February 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Ditto ditto	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	6th February 1879.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto	.....
13	"Bishva Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	9th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	7th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	8th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	8th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beaulah, Rājshāhye...	200	5th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	7th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	7th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	
24	"Sādharani"	Chinsurah	516	9th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta	.....	10th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto	.....
27	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	.....	4th ditto.
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	8th ditto.
29	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore	700	10th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
30	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samāchār Sudhābarshan"	Ditto	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	6th to 13th February 1879.
33	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	7th to 13th ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	8th to 11th ditto.
35	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	.....	8th to 14th ditto.
36	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	300	
38	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	.....
39	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
40	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	8th February 1879.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
41	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	12th ditto.
43	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....	6th ditto.
44	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	.....	10th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
45	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	31st January and 7th February 1879.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 6th, 1879.

The Afghan War.

WE make the following extracts from an article in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 6th February, headed, "Why should there be war any longer?" In his proclamation of war against Afghanistan, it was observed by Lord Lytton that the Government of India had no cause of offence with the people of that country, and that its quarrel was only with Shere Ali. If it was so, why is the din of war still heard amidst the mountain-fastnesses of Afghanistan? If the object of the war was to vanquish the pride of the Amir, has not that object been fully attained? Shere Ali is now a forlorn exile. Has not sufficient expiation been made by him for his rashness? Even if it were really true that he had offered an insult to the British mission, has not the fruit of his act been forthcoming? Then why should there be war any longer? Against whom is it being now waged? Has not the time come when further bloodshed should cease? It is not, however, because of the great loss of human life that is taking place that we ask Government to put a stop to this unjust war. Under the existing circumstances, and the pass to which things have come, it behoves Government to do so for its own good. The Amir has been disappointed by Russia, and has now come to perceive that in the vocabulary of European diplomacy there is no such word as "unselfishness." The war has now arrived at that stage in which it is unlikely that Yakub Khan will be able, with the aid of the remnant of the Amir's army, to oppose the advance of the victorious British arms. Nevertheless the question arises, what will Government gain by the conquest of Cabul? It is not perhaps desired by even the Beaconsfield ministry that the whole of Afghanistan should be annexed. We again repeat that the present frontier of India is her natural frontier; and that any extension of it towards the north-west will weaken rather than strengthen it. Even if the British Government sought an extension of territory by means of this unjust war, and if Yakub Khan was found unwilling to listen to any terms, that object would be attained by the annexation of the country up to Jelalabad. What is the good of causing further slaughter and bloodshed by advancing in the direction of Cabul? The more so as the British army has to contend with many difficulties. Considering the mismanagement which has characterized the commissariat arrangements of the Quetta column and the hostilities of the savage hill-tribes, it is a matter of wonder that any great disaster has not yet taken place.

SADHARANI,
February 9th, 1879.

The Afghan War.

2. The *Sādhārani*, of the 9th February, remarks that Government in its hour of victory does not yet know what to do with it. Yakub Khan, it is said, does not seem willing to listen to terms. Government in this war appears to be quite ignorant of the Afghan character. Shere Ali, although generally regarded as a barbarian, is not unused to war and is liked by his people. He is aware that the war is condemned by the British nation, and has possibly the sympathies of Russia and of Asiatic chiefs on his side. He is conscious that in this war his position is morally strong. The more therefore the British army advances into Afghanistan, the greater the injustice that will be done. The memory of the former unjust war was gradually fading away, but any further prosecution of the present one is likely to refresh it. What should Government do then? If an annexation of the whole of Afghanistan has been determined upon no time should be lost; advance should be made with all possible despatch, while taking every precaution to keep the communications clear. If this be not the object, an ultimatum should be sent to Yakub Khan, and troops not leave their present positions which they must continue to hold till he is brought to reasonable terms. Considering,

however, the moral aspect of the question, and the fact that Government does not desire unnecessary bloodshed, and seeks the alliance of the Amir, a generous forbearance on its part will bring about the most happy results.

SAHACHAR,
February 10th, 1879.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, contains an article headed "England's true prestige," in which it is remarked—"Although the British Government possesses almost unbounded power, still even its enemies must admit that it never knowingly commits an injustice or allows others to do so. Another good sign is also observable at the present time. The European community has begun to protest, on our behalf, against injustice whenever it happens to notice any. Europeans are the first to condemn and resent any act of oppression committed by a European on a native. In many matters they have come to regard our interests as identical with theirs. Although, as a class, they have been little affected by the incidence of the license-tax, the European merchants have protested strongly against its imposition. That community now shews an increasing desire to know the views and opinions of the natives of the country, and does not, as far as practicable, act contrary to them. This line of conduct serves occasionally as an example to Government; and, as far as the work of administration is concerned, is producing excellent fruit. It must, however, in justice to the rulers, be admitted that, with the exception of financial questions, they desire to ascertain the opinion of the people on all other matters." The writer then proceeds to remark that the license-tax has produced great discontent among the poor, and that, in spite of its knowledge of the condition of the people and the fact that direct taxation is not suited to the country, Government has, at the instance of Sir John Strachey, imposed this tax and thus reversed its long-established policy of conciliating the lower classes. There would have been no necessity for this impost had the salt duties but been allowed to remain as they were. Further, the people have got an impression that their rulers are about to sacrifice the interests of this country by abolishing the import duty on Manchester goods and that an income-tax is about to be imposed. Should their apprehensions regarding the last matter be realized, Government will surely be regarded as following an immoral policy. But should the people be allowed to think so? The Imperialists get mad about "prestige." But do they know what the true prestige of England in India consists in? It is not that England is invincible in arms. Ask a common peasant and he will tell you that it was only because there was no unity amongst native kings that the English were able to conquer the country. This may be an error, it is, nevertheless, the conviction of the people. So that, England's prestige does not depend on her power. Her true prestige is based on the justice and honesty of her administration. The British Government does not know what injustice and partiality mean. Do not destroy this prestige.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 6th February, contains an article headed "How can the status of the Mukhtars be improved?" in the course of which the bill to amend the Pleaders, Mukhtars and Revenue Agents' Act, 1865, is passed in review. We make the following extracts from it:—"It is long since Act XX of 1865 was passed; and when we first heard of its proposed amendment, we thought that in doing this the condition of things in the mofussil would be taken into consideration. It is, however, now seen that the Act is to be amended chiefly for one reason. We do not undervalue this reason or regard it as needless, nay, we are of opinion that the amendment

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 6th, 1879.

The Mukhtars in the Mofussil.

should have been made earlier. For while important interests are entrusted to mukhtars and pleaders in the mofussil by their clients, the present law and practice have made them irresponsible, and, consequently, useless." The writer then dwells on the functions of the mukhtars, and observes that the large majority of these consist of unscrupulous men. "Both in point of education, responsibility and power, there should be improvement in the condition of this body. They should, as a class, either be abolished or their status raised. Much will be done by requiring them to matriculate in the University and serve articles for three years under a pleader of at least seven years' standing before they are admitted into court as mukhtars. The system under which barristers and pleaders are required to pay commission to the mukhtars should be abolished, as it tends to demoralize the bar and injure the interests of suitors to a not inconsiderable extent. There are mukhtars who, for the sake of a high rate of commission, do not scruple to engage incompetent counsel."

BHARAT MIHIE,
February 6th, 1879.

5. The same paper apologizes to its readers for again venturing to remind Sir Ashley Eden of the subject of a railway to Mymensing. His Honor has

The Mymensing Railway.

realized the need of such a work, and if it be not accomplished in his time who knows whether it will be at all? The editor assures Government that the project, if carried out, will be remunerative, and justifies his constant recurrence to this subject on the following grounds—(1) In the course of his speech at the Trades dinner His Honor expressed himself as greatly desirous of extending railway communications in Bengal. (2) The need of a railway to Mymensing has been acknowledged in the last administration report of Bengal, and the interest taken by the inhabitants in the project has been realized by His Honor. (3) The fact that last year the profit of the Eastern Bengal Railway Company was 11 per cent. on the capital invested. (4) The rumour that His Honor intends to offer for sale shares for this railway; and (5) that Nawab Abdul Gani will take up shares to the value of 40 lakhs of rupees.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 8th, 1879.

6. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 8th February, asks Government to use means for the improvement of agriculture and manufactures. As it is, the people have no means available to them for growing increased crops or learning such arts and manufactures as may augment the wealth of the country. There are schools of agriculture and arts in Madras; Sir Richard Temple has proposed similar institutions for Bombay; it behoves Sir Ashley Eden to do the same for Bengal.

GRANVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 8th, 1879.

7. Adverting to the rumour of an income-tax which has filled the popular mind with great apprehensions, the *Grāmvartā Prakāshikā*, of the 8th February,

The Income-Tax.

remarks that India has been so harassed by taxes that it has at last come to be like the burnt cow which gets startled even if it sees a yellow cloud in the sky. The imposition of a new tax in the present state of the country would not only be a reproach to the rulers, it would be exceedingly cruel to the people also.

GRANVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

8. The same paper in a long article dwells on the present miserable condition of the Gorai river on which the prosperity of Kushtea, Kumárháli and many other villages depends in a considerable measure. At present the river is not navigable by boats of large burthen, and it is probable that owing to the formation of churs from the mouth of the Pudmá to the Gorai bridge, the stream will in a short time cease to flow altogether. This sad state of things is due to the construction of the Gorai bridge by the

The condition of the Gorai river.

Eastern Bengal Railway Company. The editor promises to return to the subject in his next issue.

9. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 8th February, refers to the hardships occasioned by the inequitable assessments under the License-Tax Act. In these days

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
February 8th, 1879.

The License-Tax.

of high prices it is almost impossible for the poor to support their families with their small earnings. The assessors have not even taken the trouble to enquire whether a man really earns Rs. 8-8 a month; the number of persons he has to support is all that is wanted. No account is taken of his income; assessments are based on his estimated expenditure. Thus persons having large families but not adequate incomes are assessed with the tax; and it presses severely upon them.

10. Referring to the graded scheme recently introduced into the Edu-

HINDU HITAIISHINI.

The recent graded scheme for subordinate educational officers.

cation Department, the same paper remarks that, although the measure may be regarded as an improvement, it has not still come

up to the expectations of the public. The principles on which the officers have been graded have not been uniformly carried out in every instance. The case of the ill-paid teachers in Government schools has not received any adequate attention. No enquiry was made to ascertain whether there were any competent men among the Sanskrit-teaching staff in the Dacca Collegiate and Normal Schools, while certain teachers on Rs. 50 a month who happen to be at Calcutta have had the advantage of being placed in the grades. The claims of the pundits drawing the same pay seem to have been overlooked.

11. The same paper devotes an editorial to the subject of prison

HINDU HITAIISHINI.

Prison labor in Bengal.

discipline in Bengal and observes that the prisoners are subjected to very hard labor which ruins their health in a short time. The dietary arrangements are not satisfactory in many jails. These circumstances account for the large mortality among the prisoners. It is exceedingly to be regretted that the subject has not yet received any attention from Sir Ashley Eden.

12. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 9th February, refers to the rumors

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 9th, 1879.

The Income-Tax.

of an income-tax, and observes that in this time of distress occasioned by high prices and various taxes, the imposition of a new tax will make the condition of the people really deplorable. It is strange that the rulers, instead of seeking to relieve the distress, should bring about needless wars and saddle a starving people with taxes in order to obtain funds for the purpose. Everybody will admit that such conduct does not become a civilized and paternal Government like the British. Nor is it the fact that the rulers do not realize the impolicy of introducing a new impost at the present time. We do not therefore believe in these rumours. The editor then refers to the diversion which is apprehended of the proceeds of the license-tax (originally declared to be set apart for purposes of famine relief) to expenditure on account of the Afghan war, and describes this as unjust and not as proceeding from any well-wisher of India. The abolition of the import duties on Manchester goods, which is also apprehended, is regarded in the same light.

13. We give in *extenso* the following article from the same paper

DACCA PRAKASH.

The Rent Bill.

on the Rent Bill—"There does not appear to be any necessity for enacting a new law relating to landlord and tenant in the form in which the present bill has been framed. Owing to the recurrence of disputes between the parties during the last few years, the necessity of an enactment on the subject was indeed felt, but after reflection we find that the bill does not so much as touch

the subject of dispute. The cause of the latter is generally to be found in the unwillingness of the ryots to pay rent at enhanced rates which are claimed by the zemindars in many places. Considering how the value of the produce of land has increased at the present time, and the consequent facilities for increasing their incomes that exist on the part of the ryots, and how, on the contrary, the expenses of the landlords have increased in different ways, it does not seem unfair that enhanced rates of rent should be demanded. Perceiving this to have been the case, our late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Richard Temple, framed a Bill on this subject, but unfortunately it was not passed into law. We had thought that in any measure of legislation relating to landlords and tenants which might be introduced, a provision for enabling the former to enhance the rent-rate would have the foremost place. It is to be regretted, however, that nothing like this is to be found in the present bill. There is, indeed, a provision in it which has reference to the question, and lays down the conditions on which rents may be enhanced at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent. This is, however, likely to be a weak, vague and ineffective provision. According to this the rents of a tenant who pays at the rate of five annas for every *pákhi* of land, may, if another holding land adjacent to it and possessed of similar advantages be found to pay at the rate of ten annas a *pákhi*, be enhanced only by one anna, that is, up to six annas. And yet for this advantage the landlords must subject themselves to no end of expense, trouble and loss of time. It is not likely that they will consent to do this, and the provision will therefore become a dead-letter. If Government undertakes to enact a new law relating to landlords and tenants it should, in our opinion, first of all insert therein provisions for enhancing the rent-rate.

"We admit that the procedure laid down in the bill for facilitating the recovery of rents will prove effective. It will, however, apply to cases of undisputed rent-rates. In all other cases, in which a decision must be arrived at after weighing the evidence and the arguments adduced, there will be, in practice, as much delay as before. It is well known that the landlords do not find much difficulty in realizing undisputed rents, the ryots willingly paying them. If this is so, what is the use of a new procedure which will only increase litigation? The period during which suits for arrears of rent may be instituted has been reduced from three to one year. In many instances this will oblige the landlords to sue their tenants at the end of each year, an arrangement which will subject the former to the troubles of constant litigation and ruin the latter by its expensiveness. An increase of litigation is never beneficial. Should the provision for transferring occupancy rights be passed into law, it is easy to see that the zemindars will be made quite worthless, the tenants taking their place; and that the value of zemindaries will be decreased, and the latter reduced to a number of small taluks. According to some this state of things would be more desirable than the existence of a few large landed estates, and these men argue that 'it is not given to every one to purchase zemindaries, but there are many who can afford to buy up occupancy rights, and it is by the owners of small property that any real improvement of land is effected.'* Such language, however, would become none but an enemy of the country. Who will deny the great necessity there is of the existence of a wealthy class of landlords, or the utter impossibility of carrying out any works of public utility without them? Does not a consideration of the status of the present petty talukdars and murasidars in this country establish the fact that persons of slender

* See paragraph 13 of our last report.

means cannot afford to undertake any higher task beyond supporting themselves and their families? Although the proposal appears, on the face of it, likely to prove beneficial to the tenantry, a closer examination shows this to be erroneous. Notwithstanding the comparative improvement that has taken place in their condition, most of them have occasionally to resort to the mahajuns for help, and it is not easy for many to easily repay the debt thus incurred. So that, if the provision for the transfer of occupancy rights becomes law, the mahajuns will sue them in the courts, and having obtained decrees against them and caused their rights to be put up to auction, themselves become the purchasers. It would not be a matter of wonder if, under the circumstances, all such rights in process of time passed into the hands of the mahajuns. The latter, although they may not cultivate the land thus acquired with their own hands, may yet do this by means of hired labor. This done, they may, under the proposed law, be taken as cultivating tenants; and will be competent to sublet their holdings. It will therefore ultimately come to this, that with the exception of the mahajuns, no one else will have any rights left for sub-letting a tenure. Unlike the zemindars, the new men will not naturally feel any attachment towards the tenantry; and it would not be unlikely if they forced the ryots to agree to pay rents at exceedingly enhanced rates. There can be no doubt that this will revolutionize not only the relations between landlords and tenants, but will also produce the same effect upon the condition of the people generally. A piece of legislation, therefore, which is not likely to benefit either the landlord or the tenant, nay, which has rather a tendency to injure them, cannot certainly be regarded as fair. That the conferring of permanent rights in the soil upon the tenants will make them more attached to it, and more willing to improve it than before, is purely an idle assumption. What *mourasidar*, *sikmidar* or under-talukdar at the present time attends more to the improvement of the land than the cultivating tenant? We can boldly assert that at least in this part of the country the ryots, even in their present condition, never shrink from bestowing all the labor and effort that may be necessary for the improvement of the land. Then what is the need of vesting them with permanent rights in the soil? It will probably only have the effect of making the zemindars unwilling to any longer incur any trouble and expense for improving the land and the status of the ryots. Unlike the landlords, the latter will never be able to construct any works of public utility, such as schools, dispensaries and roads, or engage in any other costly undertaking. It does not behove Government to ignore the true state of matters and pass such a law, swayed by merely sentimental considerations.

"Although, as regards quarterly instalments, the provision for realizing the rents of defaulting tenants by the sale of their occupancy rights may hold out the prospect of speedy relief, still, since we are opposed to the transfer of these rights, we cannot agree to it. In all such cases the better way would be to oust the tenant from his holding. This would not only facilitate the realization of rents, but, if the holding be leased out to any other tenant and not to any mahajun, the tenantry also, as a class, be greatly benefited. It being, moreover, probable that the zemindar will replace one tenant by another, the proposal made above will also enable new men to acquire holdings. The provision which prohibits sub-letting by a tenant possessed of occupancy rights is equitable as, otherwise, there would be an increase of subinfeudation. We, however, are of opinion that there should be some provision made for sub-letting, to enable the community to obtain land in future, and that the powers of the zemindars should be kept intact."

SADHARANI,
February 9th, 1879.

14. On the same subject the *Sádháraní*, of the 9th February, makes the following remarks:—"Considerable hardship will be occasioned to the ryot if the landlord

The Rent-Bill.

realizes his rents according to the summary procedure laid down in the bill. It is to be regretted that hardly has any one yet said a word on behalf of the tenant in this respect. An inducement has been held out to him, namely, that he will be competent to sell out his occupancy rights. What more would he have? No matter whether he owes anything or not, he will be competent to sell his property and satisfy the demands of the landlord! We do not see what inconvenience could have resulted from the provisions for realizing the arrears of rent as laid down in Act VIII of 1869. Suits for small arrears of rent are decided as Small Cause Court suits; and the decree-holder may, if he pleases, realize these amounts at once. The landlord has further the power of obtaining a distraint of the crops of the tenant for arrears of rents, and there is provision for realizing them according to a summary procedure. Then what is the use of increasing the hardships of the tenant by making a procedure which is already summary still more so? There are some who advert to the need of a rigorous law for checking the ryots who have become more unruly than before. Now, a rigorous law can never succeed in checking mal practices, as witness the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. And, in the second place, what is there to prove that the tenants have become more unruly than before? They have indeed become more educated and learnt their rights, and the zemindar cannot consequently so easily oppress them as before, but they cannot, on that account, be regarded as having become more insubordinate. As soon as the plaint is filed and summons taken out against the tenant he must deposit his rents in Court, that is, the Court must presume the latter to be in arrears. This is quite contrary to the practice, according to which the defendant is held to be innocent so long as he is not proved otherwise, and is allowed the benefit of the doubt. It cannot be argued from section 6 of Act VIII of 1869 that a twelve years' possession beyond conferring occupancy rights on a tenant vests him with the right of transferring them. In accordance with local custom, however, such rights are transferred in some cases. While not interfering with this custom, there does not appear to be any necessity for a law on the subject. In our opinion there is no need of making any amendment in Act VIII. The tenants who possess occupancy rights have not asked for power to transfer them. Sir Ashley Eden, however, thinks otherwise, and we know that our protests will be quite unavailing." The writer then suggests that in order to remove the inconvenience which would otherwise result to the landlord, no transfer should be allowed without his knowledge; and it should be laid down that if made, it would not be valid and that the transferor must continue to be liable for the rents due on account of the holding. The provision that a tenure-holder will have occupancy rights only so long as he cultivates the holding with his own hands or by means of hired laborers will be injurious to many tenants who do not do so at the present time. The prohibition of sub-letting by a tenant possessed of occupancy rights, without the consent of the zemindar, although highly favorable to the latter, will, in practice, have the effect of putting a stop to sub-letting altogether.

SOM PRAKASH,
February 10th, 1879.

15. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 10th February, regrets to notice that even when there is no good cause for it, owing to a want of out-spokenness which characterizes Government, it exposes itself to much abuse and censure. For political or other reasons the rulers do not always tell the public the

The Arms Act.

motives of many of their actions. They are consequently misunderstood, and the people complain of injustice. This has been the case with the Arms Act. The motive which led Government to pass that measure is doubtless good, but it has been misconstrued. This is nothing else than to prevent savage tribes on the frontier, who occasionally commit raids upon British territory, from obtaining supplies of arms and not to create difficulties in the way of native rajahs and sardars obtaining them. Government has been rather more liberal than before in the new Arms Act. In the old law on the subject, rajahs and sardars were not allowed to use arms without a license, but in the present Act that provision has not found a place.

16. Both the *Som Prakash* and the *Sahachar* refer to the case of Har Sahay, the dismissed subordinate judge of Furruckabad, and to his memorial to Government.

Pundit Har Sahay's Case.

The writers complain of the treatment he has received and the unfitness of Mr. Saunders for judicial work.

17. A correspondent of the same paper asks Government to transfer Govardanga, now comprized in the jurisdiction of the Bashirhat sub-division, to Barasat. Both are equally distant from Govardanga.

The transfer of Govardanga to Barasat sub-division asked for.

But the latter possesses the advantage of a good pucca road which can be used by carriages, and has sarais at intervals where travellers can refresh themselves, while the means of communication between Govardanga and Bashirhat are extremely wretched; that by water is circuitous, and that by land not practicable in the rainy season. The argument in favor of the proposed transfer derives additional force from the consideration that Sir Ashley Eden has in view the connecting of Barasat with Govardanga by rail at no distant time.

18. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, remarks, in reference to the Arms Act, that although unwilling to raise any question of race, on account of its in-

The Arms Act.

utility, it is obliged to advert to it when Government itself has set the example. Are the East Indians and Eurasians even more worthy of confidence than the natives? We admit that there is necessity for exercising some sort of control as regards weapons used in war at the present time; and there could not also be any objection if means were used for preventing supplies of arms to the wild tribes on the frontiers of India. But what is being seen in practice? Have they been able to get any good arms of precision to any large extent? What is the experience of the present war? The wild tribes possess only old matchlocks. Not to speak of them, even the soldiery in Shere Ali's army are not equipped with anything better than Enfield rifles. The hill tribes have not the means to buy good weapons; if they had, they would not lack them, and nothing would be effective in preventing supplies. Have they no other way open to them for obtaining arms except through the British territory? The Russian frontier is gradually advancing towards India, and what will prevent them from importing their arms through that region in a few years? So that, the plea concerning hill tribes advanced by Government is groundless. There are good mechanics in the Punjab and Cabul who could manufacture arms of precision if they obtained models; and supplies of these would be accessible to the hill tribes, should the latter ever have means to purchase them. The policy of disarming, that is, preventing the occurrence of rebellions by this means, has never succeeded anywhere. History will tell us that no war was ever prevented by a lack in the supply of arms, as witness the Russo-Turkish war. The injury that is being done to crops by wild beasts, notably the wild boars, is

SOM PRAKASH,
AND SAHACHAR.

SOM PRAKASH,
February 10th, 1879.

SAHACHAR,
February 10th, 1879.

on the increase from the people having been disarmed. Natives are now learning manly sports ; and if they be allowed to use arms freely, the whole tribe of wild beasts will be exterminated at no distant time. As it is, the appearance of a tiger in one village is enough to make the inhabitants of ten villages tremble with fear. If the people grow in courage it will be an advantage to Government. We are opposed to the principles which underlie the Arms Act. As a matter of fact, the people do not use the rifles used in warfare. There would be no harm even if they did so. The teaching of modern history is that no armed resistance to the power of a well-established Government can ever be successful so long as the soldiers and officers do not join in it. There is no chance of a rebellion so long as good Government lasts in the country. No Arms Acts would be able to stay the downfall of the empire if the administration was unsound. The British Government need have no such fears or Arms Acts. Such measures only evince a distrust of the people. There is hardly a country where discontent does not exist in some shape or other. The people are convinced that no resuscitation for the country is possible without its remaining for a long time under the British Government. What room is there for fear or distrust?

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
February 11th, 1879.

19. The *Bardwán Sanjivani*, of the 11th February, adverts in the course of an editorial to the speech of Sir Ashley Eden at the Trades dinner and remarks—"The speech clearly shows the sincerity of Sir Ashley Eden. There can be no doubt that His Honor loves the people of Bengal with his whole heart and seeks by all means in his power their advancement. His many good acts clearly prove this. These are here enumerated. He it is who created and conferred a civilian's post on one native, and a district judgeship on another. He has appointed a native of this province as the Bengali translator to Government. He has introduced grades among the subordinate officers of the education department, created another class of moonsifs and inaugurated a new system of examinations and rewards for the pupils studying in the Sanskrit *toles*. He is about to legislate for the better administration of religious endowments and has introduced the rent bill for improving the status of the Bengal ryot. His Honor has further proposed to purchase the Bishop's College building for the purpose of setting up an arts school therein. Unfortunately for his reputation, he advocated the passing of the Vernacular Press Act. It is, however, idle to refer to that now. May His Honor live long in the enjoyment of health and fulfil his benevolent aspirations as regards the people of this province!"

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
February 10th, 20th.

20. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 10th February, has a long article headed "The consequences of the Cabul war," in which the observations made by the *Som Prakásh* on this subject and on the proposed abolition of the cotton-duties are reproduced almost *verbatim*.* In referring to the rumors of an income-tax, the writer dwells on the hardships occasioned to the people by the prevailing high prices, and suggests, that should it be really deemed necessary to impose a tax on incomes, the license-tax ought to be abolished. A tax on incomes will bring more to the exchequer than the present license-tax.

The Cabul War and the Income-Tax.

* See paras. 2 and 17 of our last report.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th February 1879.

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